

The Connecticut General Assembly



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State Representative Simmons Proud To Join Governor Lamont For The Signing Of Her Cybersecurity Legislation

(HARTFORD, CT) – On Thursday, July 15, Governor Ned Lamont signed the Cybersecurity Bill into law at the [Uconn Tech Park in Storrs](#). **Representative Caroline Simmons (D-Stamford)**, who proudly introduced the legislation to address the ongoing risk of cyberattacks on Connecticut businesses, was in attendance.

During the ceremony, Governor Lamont also announced an \$11 million investment to support the State of Connecticut's enhanced cybersecurity efforts, with an initial \$8.2 million on the agenda for the State Bond Commission at its upcoming meeting this Friday, July 23.

The legislation works to add safeguards and bolster statewide cybersecurity defenses to better protect businesses and consumers from cyber threats, by incentivizing businesses' voluntarily adoption of nationally recognized cybersecurity best practices. Programs like the NIST framework or CIS controls have been proven to substantially reduce the risk of cyberattacks, in some cases by up to 83%.

"This bipartisan bill is just another reason Connecticut is becoming a better place to do business every day," **Governor Lamont** said. "Bills like this one meet two important goals – ensuring that our state is operating in the most business friendly ways, and also improving the security of consumers' data. Further, the state's investments in cybersecurity and the hiring of our first Chief Information Security Officer will help the state improve its cybersecurity posture, which will improve the resilience of state services and protect our residents and businesses."

Rep. Simmons said, "I was proud to lead the passage of cybersecurity legislation that will bolster our State's cyber defenses and protect businesses and consumers. The cyber threat is real, and it's targeting our small businesses who are both unsuspecting and vulnerable as we work our way out of the COVID-19 pandemic. I was also proud to see unanimous bipartisan support of this bill, which only works to protect Connecticut's infrastructure, utilities, businesses, hospitals, schools, and consumers. I want to thank Brian de Vallance and CIS for their helpful data and guidance, which lead the initiative to draft this legislation."

There were over 400 reports of security breaches in CT in 2013, compromising the personal information of over 500,000 CT residents. These include attacks ranging from the Target, Home Depot, and Anthem breaches, to attacks on our state and local government agencies, schools, and small businesses, pointing to the increasing need for better cyber defenses. The US Federal Trade Commission received 1.4 million

reports of identity theft last year, double the number from 2019, and every minute, \$2.9 million is lost to cybercrime, with the average cost of a data breach being \$3.86 million.

[Public Act 21-119](#), *An Act Incentivizing the Adoption of Cybersecurity Standards for Businesses*, goes into effect on October 1, 2021.

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